Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics

1991 Aboriginal Peoples Data
Northwest Territories

- Schooling, Work and Related Activities -
- Income, Expenses and Mobility -

This report presents statistical information for Northwest Territories based on the Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) which was completed by Statistics Canada following the 1991 Census of Canada. Topics covered in the report include: schooling and school experience; work and related activities; income and income sources; expenditures; and population mobility. This report is the third in a series providing statistical results from the Aboriginal Peoples Survey. The first report described the population reporting aboriginal origins and aboriginal identity for Canada, the provinces and territories. The second highlighted languages, health status and social issues. This report, like the second, provides territorial level data for the aboriginal population as a whole and separately for persons identifying themselves as Inuit, North American Indian or Métis. Future releases of APS data will cover topics such as disability and housing.

Statistics included in this report were obtained from the Statistics Canada publication *Aboriginal Data: Schooling, Work and Related Activities, Income, Expenses and Mobility* (Catalogue 89-534). NWT community profiles covering these topics will be available on *T-stat*, or by contacting the Bureau of Statistics, once they are released by Statistics Canada. Users of this information are advised to refer to the *Users Guide to 1991 Aboriginal Data* which is available free of charge from Statistics Canada.

Statistical Highlights – Northwest Territories

Among persons 15 to 49 years of age identifying with an aboriginal group and living in Northwest Territories, some 96 percent reported having attended school, 52 percent had attended secondary school, and 23 percent had taken post-secondary schooling or training. By comparison, 50 percent of aboriginal persons 50 to 64 years of age had no formal schooling. Further, information collected on occupational training indicates that 26 percent of aboriginal persons 15 to 49 years of age and 20 percent of those 50 to 64 years of age had taken training courses at some point during 1990 or 1991.

Forty-four percent of aboriginal persons 15 years of age and over were employed at the time of the 1991 census. The labor force participation rate for this group was 59 percent and the unemployment rate was 25 percent. Also of note, some 69 percent of respondents had worked for wages or salaries at some point during 1990 or 1991. Of these, 33 percent reported that they had held more than one job. During the same period, 37 percent of respondents 15 years of age and over had looked for work. Sixty-seven percent of these persons reported difficulty finding employment because there were few or no jobs available in the area where they lived and 40 percent said their education or work experience did not match employment opportunities. In addition, 5 percent of aboriginal persons 15 years of age and over reported having owned or operated a business, while 3 percent owned or operated a business at the time of the survey. Eleven percent were considering going into business over the next two years.

Fourteen percent of aboriginal persons 15 years of age and over and living in Northwest Territories had no income during 1990 and another 15 percent had incomes below $2,000. By comparison, 25 percent reported incomes that were $20,000 or higher. Looking at sources of income, 68 percent of respondents reported earning income from employment during 1990. Other income sources tabulated by APS were social assistance (reported by 22 percent of respondents), training allowances (5 percent), education allowances (4 percent), and workers compensation (2 percent). In terms of spending, 73 percent stated that most or all of their purchases during the four weeks prior to the survey had been made in their own community.

The Aboriginal Peoples Survey also asked questions about population mobility. Results for Northwest Territories show that 19 percent of aboriginal persons 15 years and over had lived in the same residence all their life. Another 64 percent had moved at some point but did not move during the twelve months prior to the survey, while 16 percent had moved in the past year. Fifty-two percent of respondents 15 years and over had lived out on the land at some time during the twelve months prior to the survey. Among children, this figure was also 52 percent.

Notes to Tables

- All figures are independently random rounded prior to publication. As a result, all numbers end in the digit 0 or 5 and may not sum to the total.
- Some persons reported that they identified with more than one aboriginal group. As a result, the sum of responses for individual aboriginal groups may be greater than the total for those reporting aboriginal identity.
- Due to multiple responses and non-response to questions, categories may not sum to total.

Symbols

... Figure not appropriate or not applicable, or no information provided.

* Figure to be used with caution. The coefficient of variation of the estimate is between 16.6% and 33.3%.

‡ Zero, or figure suppressed since the coefficient of variation of the estimate is higher than 33.3%.

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Table 1 Highest Level of Schooling and School Experience
Persons 15 to 49 Years of Age, by Aboriginal Group
Northwest Territories, 1991

	Reporting Aboriginal Identity	Inuit	North American Indian	Métis
Persons 15 to 49 Years of Age	17,020	10,155	4,775	2,145
Highest Level of Schooling				
Persons who never attended school	665	575	80*	‡
Persons with ...				
one to eight years of schooling	6,005	3,900	1,780	345
secondary schooling	5,660	3,065	1,630	1,000
some post-secondary	1,905	1,155	490	280
certificate/diploma	2,525	1,385	745	400
university degree	170	‡	35*	110*
years of schooling not specified	90*	60*	‡	‡
Elementary School Experience				
Persons who attended elementary school	16,350	9,600	4,680	2,135
one school only	9,855	6,535	2,435	915
two or three schools	4,635	2,160	1,730	770
four or five schools	910	310	265	330
six or more schools	175	‡	90*	60*
number of schools not specified	780	565	160	55*
Living arrangements while attending school ...				
with their family	14,225	8,455	3,860	1,970
at a residential school	2,870	1,190	1,475	210
with another aboriginal family	1,085	705	285	100*
with a non-aboriginal family	360	140*	155	75*
with someone else	475	290	110*	80*
Persons who had aboriginal teacher(s)	7,875	5,720	1,535	630
Languages used by teachers in classroom ...				
English	15,895	9,240	4,605	2,110
French	1,485	335	490	670
aboriginal language(s)	6,750	5,460	975	320
other language(s)	110*	45*	‡	40*
language not specified	320	235	70*	‡
Persons who were taught about aboriginal people	8,330	5,965	1,660	730
liked what was taught about aboriginal people	7,945	5,730	1,560	670
Secondary School Experience				
Persons who never attended secondary school	7,000	4,715	1,915	370
Persons who attended secondary school	8,885	4,555	2,625	1,760
one school only	6,215	3,490	1,665	1,105
two or three schools	2,190	745	855	600
four to six schools	120*	50*	40*	‡
six or more schools	‡	‡	‡	‡
number of schools not specified	360	270	60*	‡
Living arrangements while attending school ...				
with their family	5,055	2,440	1,365	1,285
at a residential school	3,640	1,875	1,310	475
with another aboriginal family	610	295	235	85*
with a non-aboriginal family	385	150	150	95*
with someone else	440	225	120*	115*
Persons who had aboriginal teacher(s)	2,735	2,160	335	235

(continued)

Table 1 Highest Level of Schooling and School Experience Persons 15 to 49 Years of Age, by Aboriginal Group Northwest Territories, 1991 (concluded)

	Reporting Aboriginal Identity	Inuit	North American Indian	Metis
Secondary School Experience (continued)				
Languages used by teachers in classroom ...				
English	8,470	4,220	2,565	1,740
French	1,170	270	395	525
aboriginal language(s)	2,125	1,910	175	40*
other language(s)	75*	45*	‡	‡
language not specified	325	250	65*	‡
Persons who were taught about aboriginal people	3,440	2,215	790	445
liked what was taught about aboriginal people	3,195	2,080	745	380
Persons who are still attending secondary or high school	1,370	725	420	245
Persons who have gone back to continue or finish	1,620	815	570	240
Persons taking upgrading toward high school equivalency	2,620	1,510	820	295
Post Secondary Education or Training				
Persons taking any post-secondary education or training	3,920	1,960	1,160	820
Persons who took training courses in 1990 or 1991	4,365	2,370	1,350	655
one course	3,165	1,790	935	450
two courses	640	260	290	90*
three or more courses	200	60*	55*	85*
number of courses not specified	355	260	65*	‡

Table 2 Highest Level of Schooling and School & Training Experience Persons 50 to 64 Years of Age, by Aboriginal Group Northwest Territories, 1991

	Reporting Aboriginal Identity	Inuit	North American Indian	Métis
Persons 50 to 64 Years of Age	2,565	1,400	905	280
Highest Level of Schooling				
Persons who never attended school	1,290	945	325	‡
Persons with ...				
one to eight years of schooling	715	220	375	120*
secondary schooling	205	65*	85*	60*
some post-secondary	135*	60*	40*	35*
certificate/diploma	200	100*	70*	‡
university degree	‡	‡	‡	‡
years of schooling not specified	‡	‡	‡	‡
Schooling and Training				
Persons who attended a residential school	755	240	380	140
Persons who took training courses in 1990 or 1991	505	290	145	80*
one course	210	120*	60*	‡
two courses	40*	‡	‡	‡
three or more courses	‡	‡	‡	‡
number of courses not specified	260	145	65*	45*

Table 3 Elementary and Secondary School Experience
Children 5 to 14 Years of Age, by Aboriginal Group
Northwest Territories, 1991

	Reporting Aboriginal Identity	Inuit	North American Indian	Métis
Children 5 to 14 Years of Age	8,395	5,440	2,165	815
Elementary School Experience				
Children who have never attended school	65*	65*	‡	‡
Children who have attended elementary school	8,330	5,375	2,165	815
one school only	6,275	4,460	1,365	475
two or three schools	1,580	670	640	280
four or five schools	195	85*	85*	‡
six or more schools	‡	‡	‡	‡
number of schools not specified	270	165	70*	40*
Living arrangements while attending school ...				
with their family	7,940	5,150	2,045	780
with another aboriginal family	475	370	85*	‡
at a residential school	70*	‡	40*	‡
with a non-aboriginal family	70*	‡	‡	‡
with someone else	90*	55*	‡	‡
Children who have aboriginal teacher(s)	6,690	4,845	1,480	390
Languages used by teachers in classroom ...				
English	7,590	4,750	2,070	795
French	855	200	330	320
aboriginal language(s)	5,980	4,570	1,205	220
other language(s)	105*	55*	40*	‡
language not specified	150	90*	50*	‡
Secondary School Experience				
Children attending secondary school	455	240	105*	110*
Children living with their families while attending school	360	185	80*	105*
Children who have aboriginal teacher(s)	235	145	45*	55*
Languages used by teachers in classroom ...				
English	405	215	85*	110*
French	120*	‡	‡	65*
aboriginal language	185	125*	‡	‡
other language(s)	‡	‡	‡	‡
language not specified	50*	‡	‡	‡

Table 4 Employment Status, Barriers to Employment, and Business Ownership
Persons 15 Years & Over, by Aboriginal Group
Northwest Territories, 1991

	Reporting Aboriginal Identity	Inuit	North American Indian	Métis
Persons 15 Years & Over	20,745	12,090	6,220	2,510
Employment Status in June 1991				
Employed	9,165	5,185	2,580	1,450
Unemployed	3,130	1,780	1,040	320
Not in the labor force	8,375	5,085	2,585	735
Employment status not specified	65*	40*	‡	‡
Participation rate (%)	59.3	57.6	58.2	70.4
Unemployment rate (%)	25.4	25.6	28.7	18.1
Employment Status During 1990 and 1991				
Persons who worked for income	14,325	8,160	4,125	2,105
at one job only	9,210	5,450	2,530	1,280
at more than one job	4,670	2,440	1,485	755
number of jobs not specified	440	265	105*	65*
Barriers to Employment				
Persons who looked for work in 1990 and 1991	7,675	4,310	2,435	960
Persons who had problems finding a job because ...				
few or no jobs in area where they lived	5,130	3,030	1,650	460
education or work experience did not match jobs available	3,045	1,840	980	245
not enough information about available jobs	1,975	1,160	675	140*
they were aboriginal	905	615	260	‡
no one to look after children	740	465	220	60*
other reasons	685	290	275	130*
Persons involved in other activities since January 1990 to support themselves and their families for which they ...				
received money	5,625	3,510	1,600	540
did not receive money	6,370	4,015	1,905	470
Business Ownership				
Persons who ...				
have owned or operated a business	1,135	485	385	280
presently own or operate a business	600	250	190	165
are considering going into business for themselves over the next two years	2,260	1,185	735	360

Table 5 Income from All Sources and Employment Income Persons 15 Years & Over, by Aboriginal Group Northwest Territories, 1990

	Reporting Aboriginal Identity	Inuit	North American Indian	Métis
Persons 15 Years & Over	20,745	12,090	6,220	2,510
Income from All Sources				
Persons with no income	2,835	2,135	430	275
Persons with income ...				
under $ 2,000	3,025	1,385	1,415	235
$ 2,000 - 9,999	5,690	3,520	1,690	495
$ 10,000 - 19,999	3,930	2,265	1,185	480
$ 20,000 - 39,999	3,490	1,905	1,025	580
$ 40,000 and over	1,770	880	470	445
amount not specified	‡	‡	‡	‡
Employment Income				
Persons with employment income	14,155	8,310	4,010	1,900
under $ 2,000	2,670	1,715	760	200
$ 2,000 - 9,999	4,525	2,835	1,270	425
$ 10,000 - 19,999	2,355	1,360	685	310 0
20,000 - 39,999	3,020	1,625	875	535
$ 40,000 and over	1,585	775	410	420
amount not specified	‡	‡	‡	‡
Selected Income Sources During 1990				
Persons who received a full-time post-secondary education allowance	765	305	305	165
for one to six months	440	210	170	70*
for seven to twelve months	290	70*	130*	100*
number of months not specified	35*	‡	‡	‡
Persons who received a full-time training allowance	1,080	635	320	125*
for one to six months	750	470	220	60*
for seven to twelve months	275	135*	75*	60*
number of months not specified	55*	‡	‡	‡
Persons who received social assistance (excluding Family Allowance and Child Tax Credit)	4,625	3,250	1,085	300
for one to six months	1,930	1,235	510	185
for seven to twelve months	2,545	1,900	535	115*
number of months not specified	155	110*	40*	‡
Persons who received workers compensation	315	170	85*	75*
for one to six months	185	100*	35*	50*
for seven to twelve months	70*	‡	‡	‡
number of months not specified	65*	40*	‡	‡

Table 6 Purchases of Selected Items Showing Proportion of Expenditure in Own Community
Persons 15 Years & Over, by Aboriginal Group
Northwest Territories, 1991

	Reporting Aboriginal Identity	Inuit	North American Indian	Métis
Persons 15 Years & Over	20,745	12,090	6,220	2,510
Purchases over the Previous Four Weeks and Proportion Spent in Own Community				
Persons who bought food from a restaurant or take-out	8,610	3,620	3,280	1,765
all or most purchased in own community	6,295	2,755	2,105	1,475
about half or some purchased in own community	1,110	445	540	130*
none purchased in own community	1,170	405	625	150
proportion not specified	‡	‡	‡	‡
Persons who bought food to eat at home (excluding take-out)	17,910	10,505	5,335	2,145
all or most purchased in own community	15,565	9,475	4,230	1,925
about half or some purchased in own community	1,700	790	785	130*
none purchased in own community	490	135*	285	70*
proportion not specified	155	100*	40*	‡
Persons who bought gasoline	10,410	5,765	3,185	1,530
all or most purchased in own community	9,160	5,230	2,635	1,360
about half or some purchased in own community	685	285	325	85*
none purchased in own community	475	195	210	70*
proportion not specified	85*	55*	‡	‡
Persons who paid for travel, trip or ride (such as car, taxi ride, boat, airplane, bus)	7,785	4,075	2,555	1,190
all or most purchased in own community	6,000	3,170	1,915	950
about half or some purchased in own community	890	490	250	150
none purchased in own community	835	380	375	85*
proportion not specified	60*	40*	‡	‡
Persons who paid for repairs and maintenance to vehicles or boats	4,545	2,490	1,310	770
all or most purchased in own community	3,400	1,970	795	650
about half or some purchased in own community	385	200	160	‡
none purchased in own community	685	270	335	85*
proportion not specified	75*	40*	‡	‡
Persons who bought clothing, shoes or boots	14,925	8,710	4,380	1,900
all or most purchased in own community	10,765	6,790	2,670	1,350
about half or some purchased in own community	2,305	1,290	760	265
none purchased in own community	1,700	525	905	275
proportion not specified	155	105*	45*	‡
Persons who bought supplies to repair, fix or keep up their home	4,475	2,030	1,510	950
all or most purchased in own community	3,340	1,525	1,075	745
about half or some purchased in own community	445	190	190	70*
none purchased in own community	645	285	240	120*
proportion not specified	50*	‡	‡	‡
Persons who paid for services to repair, fix or keep-up their home	2,225	1,200	635	390
all or most purchased in own community	1,645	840	490	310
about half or some purchased in own community	110*	55*	50*	‡
none purchased in own community	430	280	85*	70*
proportion not specified	35*	‡	‡	‡

(continued)

Table 6 Purchases of Selected Items Showing Proportion of Expenditure in Own Community
Persons 15 Years & Over, by Aboriginal Group
Northwest Territories, 1991 (concluded)

	Reporting Aboriginal Identity	Inuit	North American Indian	Métis
Purchases over the Previous Four Weeks and Proportion Spent in Own Community (continued)				
Persons who bought equipment for hunting, fishing or trapping	6,735	4,295	1,780	675
all or most purchased in own community	5,480	3,595	1,330	565
about half or some purchased in own community	560	325	205	40*
none purchased in own community	595	310	220	70*
proportion not specified	90*	70*	‡	‡
Persons who bought or rented a VCR movie	9,380	5,185	2,870	1,385
all or most purchased in own communityity	T8,400	4,585	2,555	1,305
about half or some purchased in own community	435	320	115*	‡
none purchased in own community	430	200	165	70*
proportion not specified	115*	75*	‡	‡
Persons who paid for other entertainment or recreational equipment	5,490	2,910	1,575	1,030
all or most purchased in own community	4,305	2,365	1,085	870
about half or some purchased in own community	420	190	195	‡
none purchased in own community	680	310	270	105*
proportion not specified	90*	45*	‡	‡
Persons who had their hair cut or styled	4,365	1,870	1,490	1,040
all or most purchased in own community	3,050	1,270	960	860
about half or some purchased in own community	210	115*	65*	‡
none purchased in own community	1,000	440	420	145
proportion not specified	100*	50*	50*	‡
Persons who paid for daycare	1,820	930	570	340
all or most purchased in own community	1,310	605	460	255
about half or some purchased in own community	65*	‡	‡	‡
none purchased in own community	375	250	65*	60*
proportion not specified	70*	35*	‡	‡
Persons who report that of total purchases made ...				
all or most purchased in own community	15,165	9,000	4,235	1,980
about half or some purchased in own community	3,315	1,510	1,485	355
none purchased in own community	1,635	1,175	340	125*
proportion not specified	630	405	175	50*

Note: Total purchases includes money spent on rent or mortgage payments, phone, hydro, taxes and any other payments.

Table 7 Mobility Status
Persons 15 Years & Over, by Aboriginal Group
Northwest Territories, 1991

	Reporting Aboriginal Identity	Inuit	North American Indian	Métis
Persons 15 Years & Over	20,745	12,090	6,220	2,510
Mobility Status				
Persons who have never moved	3,895	2,040	1,610	260
Persons who have not moved within the past twelve months	13,365	7,785	3,730	1,895
but moved in 1991	535	300	160	85*
but moved between 1986 and 1990	7,860	4,620	2,115	1,140
but moved between 1981 and 1985	2,160	1,180	595	400
but moved before 1981	1,830	985	625	225
when last moved not specified	975	705	235	45*
moved to this residence from ...				
within the same neighborhood	5,605	3,595	1,580	460
the same community but a different neighborhood	5,015	2,925	1,205	900
a different community within Canada	2,235	990	805	450
outside Canada	‡	‡	‡	‡
community not specified	500	275	140	90*
Persons who moved in the past twelve months	3,290	2,120	845	340
and made one move	2,540	1,705	620	235
and made two moves	355	190	110*	60*
and made three or more moves	70*	‡	40*	‡
number of moves not specified	320	205	80*	‡
moved to this residence from ...				
within the same neighborhood	1,185	805	305	80*
the same community but a different neighborhood	855	595	170	95*
a different community within Canada	360	210	115*	50*
outside Canada	‡	‡	‡	‡
community not specified	135*	110*	‡	‡
Persons living on the land away from home during the past twelve months	10,795	7,510	2,695	625
for one to two weeks	3,585	2,410	960	225
for three to four weeks	2,685	2,060	520	115*
for five to twenty weeks	3,280	2,375	745	165
for more than twenty weeks	695	300	335	70*
number of weeks not specified	550	370	135*	40*
Persons who moved back and forth during the past twelve months between two homes they have in different communities	1,355	655	490	220

Note: Some interviews for Aboriginal Peoples Survey were completed in 1992.

Table 8 Mobility Status
Children 1 to 14 Years of Age, by Aboriginal Group
Northwest Territories, 1991

	Children 1 to 14 Years of Age	Inuit	North American Indian	Métis
Children 1 to 14 Years of Age	12,870	8,345	3,290	1,300
Mobility Status				
Children who have never moved	5,940	3,960	1,555	450
Children who have not moved within the past twelve months	5,165	3,240	1,265	695
but moved in 1991	360	260	75*	‡
but moved between 1986 and 1990	3,795	2,345	990	485
but moved between 1981 and 1985	670	400	135*	140*
but moved before 1981	75*	40*	‡	‡
when last moved not specified	270	195	60*	‡
moved to this residence from ...				
within the same neighborhood	2,145	1,565	440	150
the same community but a different neighborhood	1,940	1,115	490	340
a different community within Canada	845	420	275	170
outside Canada	‡	‡	‡	‡
community not specified	230	135*	65*	‡
Children who moved in the past twelve months	1,640	1,055	440	150
and made one move	1,275	860	315	100*
and made two moves	105*	50*	‡	35*
and made three or more moves	‡	‡	‡	‡
number of moves not specified	255	135*	100*	‡
moved to this residence from ...				
within the same neighborhood	595	455	105*	40*
the same community but a different neighborhood	395	285	80*	‡
a different community within Canada	235	100*	115*	‡
outside Canada	‡	‡	‡	‡
community not specified	55*	‡	‡	‡
Children living on the land away from home during the past twelve months	6,700	5,295	1,170	250
for one to two weeks	2,575	1,900	580	100*
for three to four weeks	1,880	1,560	245	80*
for five to twenty weeks	1,825	1,515	265	45*
for more than twenty weeks	155	115*	35*	‡
number of weeks not specified	260	195	45*	‡
Children who moved back and forth during the past twelve months between two homes their family has in different communities	670	365	245	65*

Note: Some interviews for Aboriginal Peoples Survey were completed in 1992.